



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Takhar from January 2002 - December 2010: \$69.8 million

Estimated population: 871,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Taloqan

Note: US-led PRT



The mountainous province of Takhar was established in 1964 when Qataghan Province was divided into Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar. Its population comprises a number of diverse ethnic groups, including Tajik and Uzbek, with smaller groups of Turkmen, Pashtun, and Hazara. The Takhar River supplies water to this remote, fertile region, and a well-developed irrigation system sustains its agriculture. While cereal crops dominate the market, Takhar's pistachio forests, destroyed by decades of war, are slowly being rehabilitated and are expected to be a main economic driver in the future. Takhar also has untapped reserves of coal, gold, and salt.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural-sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training.

Current Activities:

- Build roads and construct irrigation systems and flood protection
- Train farmers and government staff in commercial vegetables, oilseeds, rice, feed crops, high-value crops, grapes, timber, fruit and nut orchards and nurseries, and improved livestock practices
- Increase the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses

Accomplishments:

- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted rangeland survey
- Establish a farm service center
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Completed two wash culvert super-passages projects, two dike projects on the Taloqan River, and two canal intakes and a gabion protection wall in Taloqan, Kalafghan, and Yangi Qala districts
- Established 959 demonstration farms for orchard and commercial crops



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

- Provided technical training for more than 30,300 farmers
- Provided agricultural and livestock inputs such as improved vegetable seeds, certified fruit saplings for orchards, fertilizers and pruning tools, pullets, poultry feed, wire mesh, windows, doors, balanced animal feed, bee hives, empty boxes for beekeeping with other complete tools for 316 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Takhar Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice-sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Support the Radio Takharistan station in Taloqan, Takhar with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support an Educational and Training Center for Poor Women and Girls of Afghanistan, which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan civil-society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train Provincial Council Members on the council's legal rights, monitoring, and oversight, and getting them to communicate with the constituents and represent them with government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and perform community outreach projects

Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core, skills, and ethics training for judges allowing them to better officiate over the courts
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions; trained political parties and candidate poll agents; conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the 2010 election; and provided civic education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote a democratically-elected government



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Supported the Zanan-e-Khoshroo Council for awareness on a women's rights project
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections
- Established women-focused community development councils and provided training for more than 200 teachers and community leaders to promote women's rights
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia teachers

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Promote a thriving, licit economy led by the private sector.

Summary: USAID promotes economic development in Takhar Province through automating banking services, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

Current Activities:

- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Promote economic related information and data collection activities in Takhar Province to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Takhar Mustofiat, centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center

Accomplishments:

- Installed 18 District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services to both the district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Trained customs staff on customs law, declarations, valuation, tariffs, data entry, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Takhar Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Trained radio, television and print journalists on the value of trade and trade issues in order to encourage more and better coverage of trade-related issues
- Updated the map of the entire city of Taluqan to expand tenure formalization activities and facilitate the implementation of the master city plan developed by the Ministry of Urban Development and has improved land tenure security for residents (the first of its kind in Afghanistan, the mapping process included the purchase of recent satellite imagery, collection of GPS ground control points, and the on-screen digitization of more than 10,000 property parcels)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

- Assessed market potential in the province by performing a full study of Takhar's dairy industry
- Formalized land ownership in Takhar
- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and associated rights and obligations of the Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage through the Ministry of Finance to a new corporation, the Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation, leading to better water and sanitation services for the people of Takhar Province
- Supported 401 small and medium enterprises through association grants and business-development training
- Fostered economic opportunities for businesswomen through support to the Takhar Women Handicrafts Association
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through lending to a variety of businesses in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector
- Disbursed nearly \$7.8 million in loans through USAID-funded financial institutions

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Takhar Province through two national education programs. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Sponsor education opportunities in Afghanistan and abroad for professors
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults in 48 communities through 192 literacy centers
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Established 192 literacy centers
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee for assessment and validation
- Printed more than 2.6 million textbooks
- Constructed 22 schools serving 7,140 students

HEALTH

Goal: Improve access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Takhar Province come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service and refresher training for community midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support 53 health facilities to implement the BPHS and EPHS
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery training program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 114 private-sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven sentinel sites
- Implement a pediatric hospital improvement initiative in Taloqan Hospital to improve children's health at the hospital level
- Implement a child survival demonstration project at the community level in Farkhar District, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Baharak and Dashteqala districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community-based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment, and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Provide on-the-job training to health facilities based on quality assurance findings to ensure healthcare providers have the skills they need
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Fund province-wide community health worker pre-service and refresher training

Accomplishments:

- Established three model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$1.6 million
- Trained 6,500 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare in the province
- Graduated 72 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program



FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Takhar Province focuses on the rehabilitation of roads, and water and sanitation facilities, while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Improve health and sanitation through hygiene education and the construction or rehabilitation of over 1,500 latrines, benefiting some 10,000 residents of Bahark, Kalafgan, and Hazar Somoch districts

Accomplishments:

- Renovated the Khwaja Ghar water supply system to provide access to drinking water and irrigation
- Rehabilitated 3.5 kilometers of the Khwajabahaudin and Rustaq district center roads, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community-development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor-intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Procure school furniture for 11 schools in the Namakab, Dashti Qala, Hazar Samouch, and Toloqan districts

Accomplishments:

- Provided vocational training and basic education programs for women and girls, including health education for more than 100 women
- Provided communications equipment to the Takhar Ministry of Labor, which is used to link the provincial ministry with the central government for increased policy coordination
- Provided technical advisors to the provincial governor, Department of Economy, Department of Public Works, and Department of Labor and Social Affairs
- Supported the Provincial Development Council through capacity- development training
- Provided office commodities to provincial government facilities



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Takhar Province

- Helped 5,100 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community-development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Provided assistance to 20 families, including small-business and standard kits